



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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DPI delegation to study in Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam

Fulbright-Hays grant funds July 8 to Aug. 12 study project

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced names of 20 educators selected earlier this year to participate in the Department of Public Instruction's second Fulbright-Hays study abroad seminar to Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam.

"These seminar participants represent preschool through university-level education from communities in Wisconsin that have significant Southeast Asian student enrollments," Burmaster said. "They have been examining the importance of Southeast Asia in economics, culture, and history and through this study abroad project will gain a deeper understanding of the region's geography, music, literature, and the daily life of contemporary Southeast Asian people so they can integrate these global perspectives into the curriculum to share with all students."

In addition to including educators across the PK-16 spectrum, some participants are the first in their family to have graduated from college and achieve professional teaching and administrative licensure. Bilingual group participants will make it possible for the traveling educators to speak in Hmong, Thai, Lao, Vietnamese, and French as well as English during the travel seminar.

During the first weeks of the study tour, participants will explore the culture, history, and geography of the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic including its historic capital city Vientiane; the province of Xieng Khuang, famous for the Plain of Jars; and Pakse, Laos, home of Wat Phou UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Thailand, they will meet with northeastern Thai educators at Mahasarakham University; experience the Candle Festival in Ubon Ratcha Thani; visit Bangkok, the capital; and tour universities, teacher training colleges, and schools.

While in Bangkok, Burmaster will join the delegation and participate in an Aug. 2 ceremony to sign a "Memorandum of Understanding" between the DPI and the Thai Ministry of Education to expand the number of teacher and student exchanges. While there, the state superintendent will join the seminar for a week in Vietnam, visiting preschools, villages near Hanoi, and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education.

(more)

“This seminar exposes educators to Southeast Asian culture and education and will strengthen teacher training programs across the state as we expand university language programs and help English as a Second Language teachers develop an appreciation of the crucial role of heritage languages in the acquisition of other academic skills,” Burmaster said.

Participants in the July 8 to Aug. 12 “Understanding and Maintaining Our Students’ Heritage of Language and Culture” project were selected after a competitive review of more than 200 applicants. They attended two seminars at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee prior to their departure and will have additional seminars on their return. Later this year, the educators will be available to present their observations in seminars, workshops, and via the Internet to school and community groups throughout the state.

Wisconsin was the only state education agency that submitted a proposal for a Fulbright-Hays Seminar. The “Understanding and Maintaining Our Students’ Heritage of Language and Culture” project is funded through the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program of the U.S. Department of Education and administered in Wisconsin through the Wisconsin DPI, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A list of seminar participants follows.

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Fulbright-Hays Seminar

Seminar Director

Seree Weroha, DPI Education Consultant/Supervisor
English-Language Learners/Bilingual Education

Seminar Participants

Lynell Anderson, Director
Bilingual/Multicultural/Equity Programs
Wausau School District

Noy Aphayrath, DPI Education Specialist
English-Language Learners/Bilingual Education

Soumaly Phakeovilay Bounket, Instructor
Lao Literacy/Mathematics Bilingual Program
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Rene Braun, Teacher
Early Literacy Preschool
Jefferson Elementary School, Appleton

Doris Ann Hayes of Burlington, Fourth-Grade Teacher
Gifted and Talented Coordinator
Salem School District

Choua Her, Resource Teacher
English-Language Learners
Madison Metropolitan School District

Chris Her-Xiong, Principal
Hmong American Peace Academy, Milwaukee

Nancy Lendborg, Kindergarten Teacher
Sandburg Elementary School, Madison

Janet Newman, Vice President for Learning
Northcentral Technical College, Wausau

Duy Van Nguyen, Second-Grade Teacher
Thoreau Elementary School, Madison

Deborah Pattee, Professor
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Dennis Raabe of Plover, Principal
McDill Academies, Stevens Point

Kate Mastruserio Reynolds, Associate Professor
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Director, Teacher of English to
Speakers of Other Languages

Kimberly Ann Roberg, Teacher
Social Studies, English-Language
Learners/Bilingual Education
Washington Middle School, Green Bay

Fred Schlichting of Cornucopia
Administrator, CESA 12, Ashland

Kongsone Thoummavong, Teacher
English as a Second Language
Wisconsin Avenue School, Milwaukee

Yer Yang, Teacher
English-Language Learners
North High School, Sheboygan Falls

Mao Yang-Lee of Schofield
School Counselor
Hawthorne Hills Elementary School, Wausau

Sue Zimmerman of Fort Atkinson
English and Speech Teacher
Edgerton High School